AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/695,317

REMARKS

This is supplemental to the Rule 111 Amendment filed May 27, 2003.

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added. Also, Applicants enclose a copy of page 4 of the Rule 111 Amendment showing minor corrections to the text thereon. Entry of the present Amendment is requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 12, 2003

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A rubber composition comprising:

a rubber component selected from the group consisting of at least one of natural rubber and a diene-based synthetic rubber; and

a carbon black,

wherein said carbon black has a dibutyl phthalate ~~adsorption~~ absorption amount (DBP) of 140 to 200 ml/100 g, an aggregate of said carbon black has a ratio (Dw/Dn) of a weight average diameter (Dw) to a number average diameter (Dn) of 1.80 to 2.40, and said carbon black has a specific tinting strength (Tint) and a nitrogen ~~adsorption~~ absorption specific surface area (N_2SA) satisfying an inequality: Tint $\geq$ 0.100 x nitrogen ~~adsorption~~ absorption specific surface area (N_2SA) + 93, and

wherein a ratio (ΔD_{50}/Dst) of a half-width (ΔD_{50}) to a mode (Dst) of the aggregate of said carbon black is in a range of 1.05 to 2.50.